

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 10, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 11 were pending in this Application. Claims 5-10 were cancelled due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 1-4 and 11 were rejected. Claims 3 and 11 were objected to. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4 and 11 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claims 1-4 and 11 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-4 and 11 as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,619,012 issued to David C. Casali et al. ("Casali et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention. Claim 1 is directed, *inter alia*, to a "conductor device" into which a first plastic component and, separately from it, a second plastic component are molded, wherein the conductor device can be bent such that the first plastic component can engage the second plastic component to provide an integral contacting component." Casali et al. fail to teach and/or suggest such a contacting element. A review of Figure 2A reveals "hinge 16" is comprised of narrowed section 16A and faces 16B and 16C, i.e., hinge 16 is a single component, not two separate components molded onto a conductor, separate from each other. Claim 1 specifically claims the first and second plastic components are "separate" components and do not engage with one another until the conductor is bent. Applicants respectfully submit Casali et al. fail to teach the claimed "separate" first and second plastic components molded onto a conductor device. Withdrawal of the rejection is

respectfully requested. Applicants submit Claims 1, 2 and 4 are now in condition for allowance and request favorable action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciates Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 3 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit amended Claim 11, and new Claim 12 incorporating the elements of allowable Claim 3 and base Claim 1. Applicants submit Claim 11 and new Claim 12 are in condition for allowance and requests favorable action.

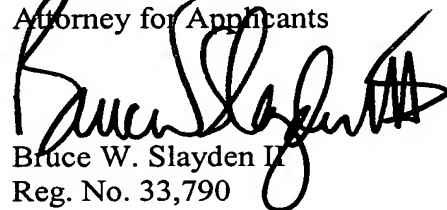
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,
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